

CLAIMS

Sub B1

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for correcting defects in vision comprising the steps of:
 - a) cutting a small incision in the anterior surface of the cornea of an eye;
 - b) creating a circular intracorneal channel originating at said incision;
 - c) widening said circular intracorneal channel to create a widened channel; and
 - d) introducing an intracorneal implant into said widened channel through said incision.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein said widened channel comprises an annular channel having a width greater than the length of said incision.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said widened channel comprises an intracorneal pocket having a width greater than the length of said incision.

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4. The method of claim 1, wherein step b) comprises inserting a dissector blade through said incision and rotating the dissector blade through a circular path to form said circular intracorneal channel.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein step b) comprises the substeps of inserting a clockwise dissector blade through said incision and rotating the clockwise dissector blade clockwise to form a clockwise channel and inserting a counterclockwise dissector blade through said incision and rotating the counterclockwise dissector blade counterclockwise to form a counterclockwise channel.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein step c) comprises inserting a channel-widening dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the channel-widening dissector blade through said circular intracorneal channel to widen said circular intracorneal channel.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein step c) comprises the substeps of inserting a clockwise channel-widening dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the clockwise channel-widening dissector blade clockwise to widen said circular intracorneal channel and inserting a counter-clockwise channel-widening dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the counter-clockwise channel-widening dissector blade counter-clockwise to widen said circular intracorneal channel.

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8. The method of claim 1, wherein step c) comprises inserting a pocket-forming dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the pocket-forming dissector blade through said circular intracorneal channel to widen said circular intracorneal channel into an intracorneal pocket.

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9. The method of claim 8, wherein said implant comprises an intracorneal lens, lenticule or inlay.

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10. The method of claim 9, wherein said implant is folded.

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11. The method of claim 8, wherein said implant has a central aperture.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein step c) comprises the substeps of inserting a clockwise pocket-forming dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the clockwise pocket-forming dissector blade clockwise to widen said circular intracorneal channel and inserting a counter-clockwise pocket-forming dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the counter-clockwise pocket-forming dissector blade counter-clockwise to widen said circular intracorneal channel, thereby forming an intracorneal pocket.

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13. The method of claim 1, wherein step c) comprises the substeps of inserting a channel-widening dissector blade having a side leg through said incision and rotating the channel-widening dissector blade through said circular

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intracorneal channel to widen said circular intracorneal channel and inserting a pocket-forming dissector blade having a longer side leg through said incision and rotating the pocket-forming dissector blade through said circular intracorneal channel to widen said circular intracorneal channel into an intracorneal pocket.

5 14. The method of claim 1, wherein step c) comprises inserting a dissector blade through said incision and dissecting a region of said cornea bounded by said circular intracorneal channel to create an intracorneal pocket.

10 15. The method of claim 1, wherein step d) comprises positioning said intracorneal implant within said intracorneal cavity at a location remote from said incision.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein step d) comprises introducing said intracorneal implant through said incision in a folded condition.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of
e) unfolding said intracorneal implant within said intracorneal cavity.

15 18. A dissector for forming an intracorneal cavity, said dissector comprising an arc-shaped member having a distal end and support end, said distal end including a leg portion extending from said distal end.

19. A kit for forming an intracorneal cavity, said kit comprising:
a first dissector for forming a circular intracorneal channel;
a second dissector for widening said circular intracorneal channel to create an intracorneal cavity.

20 20. A method of preparing an intracorneal pocket comprising the steps of:
a) cutting a small incision in the anterior surface of the cornea of an eye;
b) creating a circular intracorneal channel originating at said incision;

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- ~~c) widening said circular intracorneal channel to create a widened channel; and~~
- ~~d) dissecting radially inward from said widened channel until said pocket is formed.~~

- 10 ~~21. A method of inserting an intracorneal continuous ring implant comprising the steps of~~
- ~~a) creating a small incision in said cornea;~~
- ~~b) forming an open pocket within said cornea through said incision; and~~
- ~~c) inserting a continuous ring implant into said open pocket through said incision.~~

15 22. The method of claim 18, wherein said continuous ring implant is inserted in a stretched state.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein said continuous ring implant is folded prior to insertion.

15 24. The method of claim 20, wherein said continuous ring implant is inserted into an arc-shaped tube prior to insertion into said open pocket.

25. An intracorneal insert for introduction into the cornea of a human eye, said insert having a continuous ring shape.